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Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Laboratories

Barry R. Bloom, Ph.D. Investigator

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Dear Josh:

Thank you so much for setting up the lunch with Harold Varmus. I hope it clarified some of the issues. It seems that he is getting different messages from his Institute Directors about FIC then our committee got.

As I promised, I am sending the article from New York Magazine on SV40 contamination of polio vaccines and the suggestion of a coverup at NIH. I learned from Bob Bazell that there is another article in print, but more seriously, I checked in a bookstore over the weekend in Bob Weinberg's recent book where he suggests that there was some sort of knowledge at NIH that allowed contaminated batches to be released. It is certainly all unclear to me what the time sequence of those events was. When I met at people at FDA, they were investigating whether the people who are coming down with SV40 on their mesotheliomas in fact, received the known contaminated batches. In any case, I thought that you would be interested.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely

Investigator, HHMI